

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 to 12 and 14 to 34 are pending in the application, with Claims 32 to 34 having been added herein. Support for new Claims 32 to 34 is provided in Figure 3, steps S22, S26 and S28, and the corresponding description in the specification, of the application. Claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 18, 19 and 23 to 34 are the independent claims.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 to 12 and 14 to 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,970,502 (Salkewicz) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,649,196 (Woodhill).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus which can access a plurality of databases. The apparatus includes first copying means for copying data selected from a first database to a second database, determination means for determining if each of attribute items of attribute information appended to the data corresponds to each of attribute items of the second database, and second copying means for copying information of an attribute item, which is determined by the determination means to correspond to one of the attribute items of the second database, to a corresponding attribute item of the second database, and for copying information of an attribute item that is determined by the determination means not to correspond to any of the attribute items of the second database, to the predetermined attribute item of the second database.

As previously submitted by Applicant, the applied art, namely Salkewicz and Woodhill, is not seen to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of independent Claim 1. In particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest, when copying data selected from a first database to a second database, determining if each of attribute items of attribute information appended to the data corresponds to each of attribute items of the

second database, and then copying information of an attribute item, which is determined to correspond to one of the attribute items of the second database, to a corresponding attribute item of the second database, and copying information of an attribute item that is determined not to correspond to any of the attribute items of the second database, to the predetermined attribute item of the second database. In this manner, data can be copied between different types of databases without loss of attribute data. In addition, when the copied data in the second database is returned to the first database, the former attribute information is properly recovered.

Salkewicz is seen to be directed to a method for synchronizing a first database comprised of a plurality of records with a second database by dividing the first database into segments, each segment containing at least one record, and then transferring the segments to the second database. (Salkewicz, abstract; Figure 10; and column 2, lines 33 to 46). In this regard, Salkewicz is seen to be concerned with synchronizing multiple copies of database so as to minimize both the time during which database access is halted and the cost associated with making copies of the database. According to Salkewicz, the records of the first database are divided into a plurality of segments, each of which contains at least one database record.

Although Salkewicz teaches merely synchronizing database records among a plurality of databases wherein each record is transferred to the second database intact, Salkewicz is not seen to teach or suggest copying data from the first database to second database wherein the second database is comprised of attribute items which are different from the attribute items of the first data base. In other words, Salkewicz is not seen to be concerned with the problem of copying data from a first database to a second database when there is an attribute in the first database does not have a corresponding attribute in the second database. Accordingly, Salkewicz is not seen to teach or suggest determining if

each of attribute items of attribute information appended to the data from the first database corresponds to each of attribute items of the second database, and then copying the attribute items to the second database in accordance with this determination.

In the recent Final Office Action, the Examiner states that the determination means of the present invention is described at column 4, lines 55 to 67 of Salkewicz. Applicant strongly disagrees with this assertion because nowhere in this portion of Salkewicz, or anywhere else in Salkewicz, is it discussed or suggested to compare attribute items of a first database and of a second database to determine if there is an attribute item of the first database which does not have a corresponding attribute item in the second database. The portion of Salkewicz cited by the Examiner is in fact only seen to disclose that database records are arranged in a predetermined order, such as an alphabetical or a numerical order. (Salkewicz, Figures 2A to 2C; and column 5, lines 55 to 67).

Woodhill is seen to be directed to a distributed system for storing data in a networked computer system. (Woodhill, abstract; Figure 5A; and column 2, lines 3 to 38). In this regard, Woodhill is seen to teach performing backup of files between different computers or operating systems by selecting an object (file) to be copied on the basis of a calculated binary object identifier (74 of Figure 3) corresponding to the object. (Woodhill, Figure 3, item 74; column 4, lines 43 to 47; column 8, lines 2 to 65; and column 9, lines 14 to 28). In Woodhill, a file is viewed as a datastream which includes normal data and attribute data, and the datastream is divided into binary objects upon copying the file, when the file is backed up. A user can change the extended attribute data without changing any of the normal data, and vice versa. However, Woodhill is not seen to teach or suggest comparing attribute items between a first and second database in order to judge into which attribute item of the second database each attribute information from the first database should be copied, especially when there is no match in the second database for an attribute

item of the first database. Accordingly, Woodhill is not seen to teach or suggest determining if each of attribute items of attribute information appended to the data from the first database corresponds to each of attribute items of the second database, and then copying the attribute items to the second database in accordance with this determination.

Applicant respectfully submits that Salkewicz and Woodhill, either alone or in combination, are not seen to teach or suggest a copying operation between databases which have different sets of attribute items, as in independent Claim 1. In addition, any combination of Salkewicz and Woodhill is not seen to provide any motivation or hint to reach the combination of the invention of independent Claim 1 where it is determined if each of attribute items of the first database corresponds to each of attribute items of the second database, and information of an attribute item of the first database that is determined not to correspond to any of the attribute items of the second database is copied to a predetermined attribute item of the second database.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing, independent Claim 1 is believed to be in allowable condition and such action is respectfully requested. Independent Claim 7 contains at least similar features as that of independent Claim 1, wherein the second database is a backup database. Independent Claim 8 also contains at least similar features as that of independent Claim 1, wherein the determination means is replaced by holding and conversion means. Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1, independent Claims 7 and 8 are also believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 12, 18, 19 and 23 to 31 are directed to method claims, database system claims, method to control database system claims, and storage medium claims, all of which include at least the features of independent Claims 1, 7 and 8, respectively. Accordingly, independent Claims 12, 18, 19 and 23 to 31 are also believed to

be in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claims 1, 7 and 8, and such action is respectfully requested.


Newly-added independent Claims 32 to 34 also contain the foregoing feature of determining if an attribute item of the first database has a matching attribute item in the second database, and controlling the copying of data from the first database to the second database depending on the determination result. Accordingly, Claims 32 to 34 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed above.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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